(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Necessary action to fill up Board level vacancies in STC/MMTC has already been initiated in consultation with Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)/Deptt. of personnel & Training.

[Translation]

India's Trade and Investment in Peru

638. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR': Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian industrialists have been invited to increase investment and trade in Peru;

(b) if so, the details of the terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir. The President of Peru accompanied by a large delegation visited India in May 1997 and addressed gatherings of businessmen at New Delhi and Mumbai and invited the Indian entrepreneurs to visit Peru to explore the opportunities to enhance trade and investment between India and Peru.

(b) No specific proposals or terms and conditions have been discussed. However, during the visit of the President of Peru, an agreement was signed between the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) on the Indian side and the Confederation of Private Enterprises (CONFIEP) on the Peruvian side for establishing a Joint Business Council. The main objective of this agreement is to carry out more systematically business promotional activities in trade, investment, technology transfer, services and other industrial sectors between the business communities of the two countries.

(c) Government welcomes the possibility of expanding trade and investment between India and Peru.

[English]

Prices of Cotton

639. SHRI N. DENNIS:

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita availability of cotton after the amount of raw cotton and garments exported during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the problems being faced by the cotton mill owners due to shortage of good quality cotton and the rising prices of raw cotton; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide good quality of cotton for the indigenous textile industry and to check the prices of raw cotton?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The per capital availability of cotton during the terminal year of the VIII Plan, viz; 1996-97, after deducting raw cotton exported and cotton exported in the form of ready made garments, has provisionally been estimated to be 3.06 Kg.

(b) and (c) There has been sufficient availability of cotton in general, including quality cotton, in the country for the Textile Mill Industry in the cotton season 1995-96 and 1996-97. However, since the cotton season is now coming to an and, quality cotton has now become somewhat scarce.

During the cotton year, the prices of cotton in 1996-97 have generally been lower as compared to the prices during the last two cotton seasons. The import of cotton is under O.G.L. with nil import duty, with a view to enabling the textile industry to meet its requirements through imports if it so desires. However, the actual imports have been only around 0.5 lakh bales in 1995-96.

List of Loan Defaulters

640. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised banks have urged to prepare a list of loan defaulters in their Banks;

(b) the total number of such defaulters in each banks and the total amount of loan involved; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to recover such loan amount which has been outstanding for more than several years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) publishes as on March each year a list of borrowers with outstanding of Rs. 1 crore and above against whom suits have been filed by banks. Copies of such publication are made available to the Parliament Library. The details of bad debts written off by public sector banks during the last two years i.e. 1994-95 and 1995-96 are given in the attached Statement.

(c) The following steps have been taken by RBI with a view to reduce NPAs in public sector banks:

1. RBI has advised banks to have documents of loan recovery policy prepared and duly vetted by Board of Directors. The policy prescribes the manner of recovery of dues, targetted level of reduction, norms for permitted sacrifices/waiver etc.

2. Reduction of NPAs through compromise/write-offs, through negotiated settlements to ensure maximum recovery at minimum expense.

3. Two banks have been permitted to set up settlement Advisory Committees headed by a retired Judge of High Curt to scrutinise compromise proposals and make objective recommendations.

4. Setting up of Recovery Cells at Head Quarter and fixing of branchwise targets for reduction in NPAs. Performance of branches in recovery to be monitored by Head Quarter on monthly basis and Board of Directors kept informed of the progress on quarterly basis. RBI also monitors reduction of NPAs.

5. Setting up of Recovery Tribunals at Calcutta, Delhi, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Chennai, Guwahati and Patna and an Appellate Tribunal in Mumbai.

6. Compilation and circulation of list of defaulters suit filed accounts.

7. Review of top 300 NPAs of public sector banks with special reference to the system prevailing in the banks to fix staff accountability.

Statement

Bad debts written off by the Public Sector Banks during the last two years

Sr. No.	Name of the Bank	(Amount in crores) 1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4
A.	**State Bank Group**		
1.	State Bank of India	363.72	398.69
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	39.25	24.98
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	27.89	15.85
4.	State Bank of Indore	32.93	6.04
5.	State Bank of Mysore	50.61	5.72
6.	State Bank of Patiala	19.74	4.93
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	18.95	4.02
8.	State Bank of Travandore	4.17	28.96
B.	**Nationalised Banks**		
9.	Allahabad Bank	55.73	6.71
10.	Andhra Bank	38.78	1.95
11.	Bank of Baroda	270.27	46.42
12.	Bank of India	260.38	307.08
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	81.12	56.52
14.	Canara Bank	200.00	169.49
15.	Central Bank of India	144.12	138.44
16.	Corporation Bank	18.64	19.13
17.	Dena Bank	27.34	51.92
18.	Indian Bank	42.51	115.94
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	5.94	75.01
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	2.13	0.82
21.	Punjab National Bank	220.77	53.14
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	1.70	2.86
23.	Syndicate Bank	24.84	8.03
24.	Union Bank of India	27.86	38.81
25.	UCO Bank	165.07	110.98
26.	United Bank of India	119.00	36.51
27.	Vijaya Bank	4.19	13.26
		2267.65	1742.21

Pending Excise Duty

641. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL:

LT. GEN. (RETD.) PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of central Excise cases pending with different authorities, till date, with amount involved therein;

(b) since when these cases are pending; and

(c) the reasons for not finalising the said cases and the steps taken for expeditious finalisation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

US Investment in Infrastructure Sector

642. SHRI SUBRAMANYAM NELAVALA:

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR:

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PRANJPE:

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: